

The Plant Industries Division

operates under the authority of the West Virginia Plant Pest Act, Apiary Law, Noxious Weed Act, Pesticide Control Act, and Groundwater Protection Act. The Division is divided into three units: Agricultural Pest Survey Programs, Forest Health Protection Programs and Pesticide Regulatory Programs.

Agricultural Pest Survey Programs . . .

Except for the **Pest Identification Laboratory (PIL)** and the Black Fly Control Program, each of the programs in the Agricultural Pest Survey (APS) Programs Unit conducts statewide surveys to detect both native and exotic (foreign) agricultural pests that can be detrimental to West Virginia's agricultural interests. The **PIL** complements the pest survey and detection efforts of the APS Unit by providing expertise in the identification of insects, plant diseases and other pests found during the course of survey activities. It also provides pest identification, information and control recommendations for private individuals, businesses and other government agencies. The **Black Fly Control Program** monitors black fly larval development in certain southern West Virginia river systems for the purpose of determining the optimum time to conduct black fly control operations.

The **Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program** fulfills the requirements of the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (NCAPS) Program Agreement No. 01-8229-0018-CA between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection & Quarantine Program (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA). Under one of the provisions of this cooperative agreement, a plant regulatory officer in the **Plant Pest Regulatory Program** devotes approximately one-half of his time to conducting federal regulatory activities under the direct supervision of the USDA-

APHIS-PPQ. The **Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Regulatory Program** cooperative agreement (No. 01-8229-182-CA), between the WVDA and the USDA-APHIS-PPQ, provides funding for a gypsy moth STS regulatory officer, operating under the authority of the WVDA, to investigate the movement of articles that pose a risk of spreading the gypsy moth into the state's 19 unregulated counties.

The survey data gathered by the APS Unit is used by staff to formulate recommendations, as needed, on the pest problems encountered. Additional data, generated by both the **Apiary Program** and Plant Pest Regulatory Program, is used to certify honey bees and apiary equipment and plant material, respectively, for out-of-state movement.

Apiary Program Accomplishments:

- Registered 1,307 beekeepers, 12,574 colonies and 1,669 apiaries.
- Inspected 2,831 colonies in 366 apiaries.
- Certified 1,163 colonies in 18 apiaries for interstate movement.
- Conducted 48 educational/public relations activities.
- Conducted a Beekeeper Assistance Program, which provided additional inspection service for beekeepers and furnished sufficient material to treat more than 11,772 honeybee colonies for parasitic mites.